

Appl. No. 09/241,335
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12, 14-21 and 23-26 are pending in the application. In light of the amendments and following remarks, Applicant believes all the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

The § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 14-19, and 23

Claims 1-6, 8, 14-19, and 23 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,913,195, issued June 15, 1999 to Weeren et al. (hereinafter "Weeren"). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Weeren does not disclose general-purpose blocks as claimed. For example, claim 1 recites the following:

a plurality of general-purpose blocks, each general-purpose block being coupled to at least one other general-purpose block, wherein each general-purpose block plays a prompt and is configurable to send a first signal without requiring input after playing the prompt or send a second signal according to received input after playing the prompt;

(emphasis supplied highlighting amendment). As claimed, a general-purpose block is configurable to, after playing a prompt, send a first signal without requiring input or send a second signal according to received input.

In the embodiment shown in Fig. 2A, box 206 of general-purpose block 201 can be closed which causes a prompt InitPlay 203 to be played. Right after that, without any input, a signal called InitEnd is sent (see also page 6, lines 15-23). Thus, the general-purpose blocks of the claimed invention can be configured to send a signal without requiring input after playing a prompt.

The Office Action cites menu icon 501 in Fig. 5 of Weeren. More specifically, the Office Action states:

As explained above in claim 1 general purpose block 501 will play a prompt to the user and will send a first signal after the prompt e.g. Accountinformation 1 or send a second signal according to a received user input after playing the prompt e.g. user presses CSR 1 which will send the CSR 0 signal to transfer block m535.

(page 7, last line to page 8, line 4). The Accountinformation 1 signal is, however, only sent after the user selects the "1" from the menu. Thus, Weeren discloses implementing a menu and does

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not disclose a general purpose block that can be configured to send a signal without requiring input after playing a prompt or sending a signal according to input after playing a prompt as claimed.

As described in the specification, the general-purpose blocks of the invention allow the purpose or function of the block to be changed depending on how the block is configured (page 21 et seq.). This has numerous advantages, including reducing the number of blocks that have to be learned and understood. Weeren shows many different types of blocks that have specific functions. As the preceding has shown, Weeren does not disclose the general-purpose blocks as claimed.

As Weeren does not support a prima facie case of anticipation, claims 1-6, 8, 14-19, and 23 are patentably distinct and should be passed to issue.

The § 103(a) Rejection of Claims 7, 9-12 and 21

Claims 7, 9-12 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Weeren in view of U6,463,130, issued October 8, 2002 to Malik. These claims are dependent claims so include all the features of the base claims. As it has not been shown where Malik remedies the deficiencies of the primary reference Weeren, these claims are patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as above.

The § 102(e) Rejection of Claims 24-26

Claims 24-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,142, issued March 28, 2000 to Hammarström et al. (hereinafter "Hammarström"). Accordingly, it is asserted that Hammarström discloses all the features of these claims. For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Office Action does not show where Hammarström discloses the following features of claim 24:

modifying a configuration of a selected general-purpose block; and

updating the configuration of the selected general-purpose block at run-time.

The Office Action cites col. 3, lines 58-64 of Hammarström. A closer review of this section reveals that the reference is discussing how an operator can interact with a caller. The operator can initiate an action that is performed by the service independent building blocks (SIBs). However, this section does not disclose that the operator modifies SIBs (assuming for the sake of

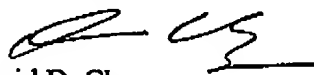
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argument the SIBs are the claimed general-purpose blocks as alleged) nor that the configuration is updated at run-time as claimed. Accordingly, the reference does not support a prima facie case of anticipation and claims 24-26 are patentably distinct over the reference.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 19-2179 (Order No. 99-P-7449-US).

Respectfully submitted,


David D. Chung
Reg. No. 38,409

SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830